Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /124 W

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R 111050Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7433
INFO MAMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9798
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.OM 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR PARM UN NP

SUBJ: UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

REF: STATE 026795

1. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT RECENTLY DISCUSSED DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, WE NOE THAT NEPAL HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED CALL FOR UN SPECIAL SESSION SINCE 1975. WE HAVE IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT NEPAL IS AS INTERESTED IN THE MECHANICS OF SUCH A CONFERENCE AS IN THE SUBSTANCE, SINCE BY BEING A MEMBER OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, NEPAL IS ABLE TO UNDERSCORE ITS ROLE AS A MODERATE, NON-ALIGNED AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRY IN SOUTH ASIA. WE WOULD DOUBT THAT HMG WILL PLAY TOO ACTIVE A ROLE, NOR WOULD WE EXPECT IT TO PUT FORTH ANY SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS.

2. NEPAL IS PARTICUALARLY INTERESTED IN REGIONAL QUESTIONS AFFECTING SOUTH ASIA AND HAS, IN THE PAST, SUPPORTED PAKISTAN'S CALL FOR A NUCELAR FREE ZONE IN THE REGION AND HAS PROPOSED THAT NEPAL BE DECLARED A "ZONE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEACE.' BOTH THESE IDEAS, HOWEVER, ARE CURRENTLY BEING DOWNPLAYED IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID IMPLCIIT CRITICISM OF INDIA IN MULTILATERAL FORA. INDIA HAS COMPLAINED THAT AT THE COLOMBO SUMIT, FOR EXAMPLE, NEPAL TOOK TO OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE ZONE OF PEACE IDEA DESPITE PREVIOUS ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD LEAVE SUCH QUESTIONS FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSION. WE SUSPECT THAT A TIME WHEN NEPA IS ANXIOUS TO ACHEIVE

PROGRESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH INDIA IT WILL BE SOMEWHAT MORE MUTED IN THE PROMOTION OF A NECUEAR FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA.

3. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS IN THE PAST SOME KEY MFA OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS IN UNDERVELOPED COUNTRIES, BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO SAY AT THIS TIME TO WHAT EXTENT THIS REPRESENTS OFFICIAL POLICY. WE EXPECT THAT NEPAL WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE PREPCON ITS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, S.K. UPDKHYAYA. MAYTAG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: DISARMAMENT, MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KATHMA00588
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770049-0771

Format: TEL From: KATHMANDU Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770250/aaaabsno.tel

Line Count: 74 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 16f5f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: 77 STĂTE 26795

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3345031 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NP, UN

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/16f5f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009